

What is claimed is:

[Claim 1] A vehicular trim component comprising:

a base;

a cover associated with the base, wherein the cover includes an integrally-formed aesthetic feature configured to simulate a seam.

[Claim 2] The vehicular trim component of claim 1 wherein the aesthetic feature comprises a pair of ridges formed in generally parallel fashion defining an indentation between the ridges, whereby the pair of ridges in cooperation with the indentation therebetween simulates a seam.

[Claim 3] The vehicular trim component of claim 2 wherein the ridges further comprise a rounded exterior.

[Claim 4] The vehicular trim component of claim 3 and further comprising a pair of stitchings formed adjacent and generally parallel to the aesthetic feature whereby the pair of stitchings simulate a French seam in conjunction with the aesthetic feature.

[Claim 5] The vehicular trim component of claim 3 and further comprising a series of indentations formed generally parallel to the aesthetic feature whereby the series of indentations simulate a French seam in conjunction with the aesthetic feature.

[Claim 6] The vehicular trim component of claim 3 wherein the cover includes a first surface and a second surface disposed at a non-planar angle with respect to the first surface, and wherein an intersection area is defined between the first and second surfaces.

[Claim 7] The vehicular trim component of claim 6 wherein the aesthetic feature is located on the intersection area of the first and second surface, whereby the location of the aesthetic feature on the intersection area between the first and second surfaces simulates that the first and second surfaces are stitched to one another.

- [Claim 8]** The vehicular trim component of claim 7 wherein the cover further comprises a texture on an outer surface thereof.
- [Claim 9]** The vehicular trim component of claim 8 wherein the texture is selected to simulate a leather grain.
- [Claim 10]** The vehicular trim component of claim 1 and further comprising a pair of stitchings formed adjacent and generally parallel to the aesthetic feature whereby the pair of stitchings simulate a French seam in conjunction with the aesthetic feature.
- [Claim 11]** The vehicular trim component of claim 1 and further comprising a series of indentations formed generally parallel to the aesthetic feature whereby the series of indentations simulate a French seam in conjunction with the aesthetic feature.
- [Claim 12]** The vehicular trim component of claim 1 wherein the cover includes a first surface and a second surface disposed at a non-planar angle with respect to the first surface, and wherein an intersection area is defined between the first and second surfaces.
- [Claim 13]** The vehicular trim component of claim 12 wherein the aesthetic feature is located on the intersection area of the first and second surface, whereby the location of the aesthetic feature on the intersection area between the first and second surfaces simulates that the first and second surfaces are stitched to one another.
- [Claim 14]** The vehicular trim component of claim 1 wherein the cover further comprises a texture on an outer surface thereof.
- [Claim 15]** The vehicular trim component of claim 14 wherein the texture is selected to simulate a leather grain.
- [Claim 16]** The vehicular trim component of claim 1 wherein the vehicular trim component comprises an arm rest.
- [Claim 17]** The vehicular trim component of claim 1 wherein the vehicular trim component comprises a console cover.

[Claim 18] The vehicular trim component of claim 1 wherein the vehicular trim component comprises a door bolster.

[Claim 19] The vehicular trim component of claim 1 wherein the vehicular trim component comprises a gear shift boot.

[Claim 20] A simulated seam in a molded polymeric item comprising a pair of ridges formed in generally parallel fashion in the item defining an indentation between the ridges, whereby the pair of ridges in cooperation with the indentation therebetween simulates a butt seam.

[Claim 21] The vehicular trim component of claim 20 wherein the ridges further comprise a rounded exterior.

[Claim 22] The vehicular trim component of claim 20 and further comprising a pair of stitchings formed adjacent and generally parallel to the pair of ridges whereby the pair of stitchings simulate a French seam in conjunction with the pair of ridges.

[Claim 23] The vehicular trim component of claim 20 and further comprising a series of indentations formed generally parallel to the pair of ridges whereby the series of indentations simulate a French seam in conjunction with the pair of ridges.

[Claim 24] The vehicular trim component of claim 20 wherein the item includes a first surface and a second surface disposed at a non-planar angle with respect to the first surface, and wherein an intersection area is defined between the first and second surfaces.

[Claim 25] The vehicular trim component of claim 24 wherein the pair of ridges are located on the intersection area of the first and second surface, whereby the location of the pair of ridges on the intersection area between the first and second surfaces simulates that the first and second surfaces are stitched to one another.

[Claim 26] The vehicular trim component of claim 20 wherein the item further comprises a texture on an outer surface thereof.

[Claim 27] The vehicular trim component of claim 26 wherein the texture is selected to simulate a leather grain.

[Claim 28] A method for making a cover for a component of a vehicle passenger compartment comprising the steps of:

molding the cover for the component from a polymeric material; and forming an aesthetic feature in the cover which simulates a seam between regions of the cover.

[Claim 29] The method of claim 28 wherein the forming step further comprises forming the aesthetic feature as a pair of a pair of ridges formed in generally parallel fashion in the cover defining an indentation between the ridges, whereby the pair of ridges in cooperation with the indentation therebetween simulates a butt seam.

[Claim 30] The method of claim 29 wherein the forming step and the molding step are performed generally contemporaneously.

[Claim 31] The method of claim 30 wherein the ridges further comprise a rounded exterior.

[Claim 32] The method of claim 31 and further comprising the step of forming a pair of stitchings adjacent and generally parallel to the pair of ridges whereby the pair of stitchings simulate a French seam in conjunction with the pair of ridges.

[Claim 33] The method of claim 31 and further comprising the step of forming a series of indentations generally parallel to the pair of ridges whereby the series of indentations simulate a French seam in conjunction with the pair of ridges.

[Claim 34] The method of claim 31 wherein the forming step of claim 28 further comprises forming the aesthetic feature at an intersection region between a first surface and a second surface of the cover disposed at a non-planar angle with respect to the first surface of the cover, and wherein an intersection area is defined between the first and second surfaces.

[Claim 35] The method of claim 28 and further comprising the step of forming a texture on an outer surface of the cover.

[Claim 36] The method of claim 35 wherein the texture is selected to simulate a leather grain.